

## Appendix H: Acronyms and Glossary

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## Acronyms

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>APE</b>      | Area of Potential Effect                              |
| <b>AQMD</b>     | Air Quality Management District                       |
| <b>BAAQMD</b>   | Bay Area Air Quality Management District              |
| <b>CARB</b>     | California Air Resources Board                        |
| <b>CBSC</b>     | California Buildings Standard Code                    |
| <b>CNDDB</b>    | California Natural Diversity Database                 |
| <b>CNPS</b>     | California Native Plant Society                       |
| <b>CZMA</b>     | Coastal Zone Management Act                           |
| <b>CWA</b>      | Clean Water Act                                       |
| <b>DEIS</b>     | Draft Environmental Impact Statement                  |
| <b>DO</b>       | NPS Director's Orders                                 |
| <b>EA</b>       | Environmental Assessment                              |
| <b>EIR</b>      | Environmental Impact Report                           |
| <b>EIS</b>      | Environmental Impact Statement                        |
| <b>FBBC</b>     | Forts Baker, Barry and Chronkhite                     |
| <b>FESA</b>     | Federal Endangered Species Act                        |
| <b>GMP</b>      | General Management Plan                               |
| <b>gpm</b>      | Gallons per minute                                    |
| <b>GGNRA</b>    | Golden Gate National Recreation Area                  |
| <b>LSS</b>      | Life Support System                                   |
| <b>LPG</b>      | Liquefied Petroleum Gas                               |
| <b>MHW</b>      | Mean High Water Mark                                  |
| <b>msl</b>      | Mean sea level  |
| <b>NEPA</b>     | National Environmental Policy Act                     |
| <b>NOAA</b>     | National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration |
| <b>NPS</b>      | National Park Service                                 |
| <b>NRCS</b>     | National Resource Conservation Service                |
| <b>OWHM</b>     | Ordinary High Water Mark                              |
| <b>PG&amp;E</b> | Pacific Gas and Electric Company                      |
| <b>PM-10</b>    | Particulate matter                                    |
| <b>SHPO</b>     | State Historic Preservation Officer                   |
| <b>SIP</b>      | State Implementation Plan                             |
| <b>UBC</b>      | Uniform Building Code                                 |
| <b>USEPA</b>    | United States Environmental Protection Agency         |
| <b>USGS</b>     | United States Geological Survey                       |

## Glossary of Terms

**Alluvium:** A general term for clay, silt, sand, gravel, or similar unconsolidated rock fragments or particles deposited during comparatively recent geologic time by a stream or other body of running water.

**Alternatives:** Sets of management elements that represent a range of options for how, or whether to proceed with a proposed project. An environmental impact statement, such as the one in this *Merced River Plan*, analyzes the potential environmental and social impacts of the range of alternatives presented.

**Backwash:** A backward flow or movement (as of water or air) produced especially by a propelling force; also, the fluid that is moving backward.

**Basin:** Refers to a drainage basin. A region or area bounded by a drainage divide and occupied by a drainage system. Specifically, an area that gathers water originating as precipitation and contributes it to a particular stream channel or system of channels. Synonym: watershed.

**Cetacean:** Any of aquatic, mostly marine mammals that includes the whales, dolphins, porpoises, and related forms and that have a torpedo-shaped nearly hairless body, paddle-shaped forelimbs but no hind limbs, one or two nares opening externally at the top of the head, and a horizontally flattened tail used for locomotion

**Colluvium:** Rock detritus and soil accumulated at the foot of a slope.

**Clayey:** A substance that resembles clay in plasticity.

**dB:** A logarithmic decibel scale that measures intensities of air pressure vibrations.

**dBA:** A-weighted frequency scale considers the human response to the pitch and loudness of a given sound.

**De Minimus:** In order to attempt to minimize.

**El Nino:** An irregularly recurring flow of unusually warm surface waters from the Pacific Ocean toward and along the western coast of South America that prevents upwelling of nutrient-rich cold deep water and that disrupts typical regional and global weather patterns.

**Environmental Assessment (EA):** A public document required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that identifies and analyzes activities that might affect the human and natural environment. An environmental assessment is a concise public document which provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an EIS, aids an agency's compliance with NEPA when no EIS is necessary, and it facilitates preparation of an EIS when one is necessary.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** A public document required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that identifies and analyzes activities that might affect the human and natural environment.

**Facilities:** Buildings and the associated supporting infrastructure such as roads, trails, and utilities.

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):** The public document describing the decision made on selecting the “preferred alternative” in an environmental assessment. See “environmental assessment.”

**Hazardous material:** A substance or combination of substances, that, because of quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics, may either: (1) cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious, irreversible, or incapacitating illness; or (2) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed.

**Hazardous waste:** Hazardous wastes are hazardous materials that no longer have practical use, such as substances that have been discarded, spilled, or contaminated, or that are being stored temporarily prior to

**Indian Trust Resources:** Advisory Task Force on the Bureau of Indian Affairs Reorganization. provides advice, assistance, oversight, and acts as his/her representative in areas of policy development and support, technical assistance, participation on departmental committees, contact for federal Indian trust referrals, and indigenous peoples issues.

**Liquefaction:** A process by which water-saturated materials (including soil, sediment, and certain types of volcanic deposits) lose strength and may fail during strong groundshaking. The transformation of granular material from a solid state into a liquefied state as a consequence of increased pore-water pressure.

**Ldn:** The day/night time average of 24 hours.

**Leq:** An average of noise over a stated time period, usually one-hour.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):** The federal act that requires the development of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement for federal actions that might have environmental, social, or other impacts.

**Necropsy:** To perform an autopsy.

**No Action Alternative:** The alternative in a plan that proposes to continue current management direction. "No action" means the proposed activity would not take place, and the resulting environmental effects from taking no action would be compared with the effects of permitting the proposed activity or an alternative activity to go forward.

**Notice of Public Scoping:** A notice to responsible agencies as well as the public and interested organizations requesting feedback and comments on an anticipated environmental project.

**Particulate matter (PM-10 and PM-2.5):** Fractions of particulate matter characterized by particles with diameters of 10 microns or less (PM-10) or 2.5 microns or less (PM-2.5). Such particles can be inhaled into the air passages and the lungs and can cause adverse health effects. High levels of PM-2.5 are also associated with regional haze and visibility impairment.

**Pinniped:** An aquatic carnivorous mammal (as a seal or walrus).

**Queuing:** To line up or wait in a queue.

**Raptors:** Are birds of prey.

**Record of Decision (ROD):** The public document describing the decision made on selecting the “preferred alternative” in an environmental impact statement. See “environmental impact statement.”

**Ring Road:** All action alternatives include an 18-foot wide perimeter road (ring road) which is required for deliveries of animals and supplies and to provide fire and emergency vehicles.

**Ruderal:** Weeds growing where the natural vegetational cover has been disturbed by humans, weeds of old fields and roadsides.

**Serum:** The watery portion of an animal fluid remaining after coagulation.

**Silos:** A trench, pit, or especially a tall cylinder (as of wood or concrete) usually sealed to exclude air and used for making and storing silage.

**Swales:** A low-lying or depressed and often wet stretch of land; also a shallow depression on a golf fairway or green.

**The Center:** The Marine Mammal Center.

**Threatened and Endangered Species:** Species of plants that receive special protection under state and/or federal laws. Also referred to as “listed species” or “endangered species.”

**Treatment Site:** The former Nike Missile site which currently houses the Marine Mammal facilities that administer to the mammals themselves.

**Wilderness:** Those areas protected by the provisions of the 1964 Wilderness Act. These areas are characterized by a lack of human interference in natural processes.